by the Government have now been issued in their final form. Under these Rules, a body of ryots wishing to open a road for their benefit should constitute themselves into an association for that purpose and apply to the department for permission to open the road, and in the event of the department being satisfied with the alignment of the road and the necessity for opening it and of the association being prepared to meet the cost of acquisition of lands, if any, the department will take over the road for maintenance, after constructing the necessary masonry works and giving the required finishing touches. In exceptional cases involving heavy outlay on account of earth-cutting, rock-blasting, etc., a contribution towards the formation work itself may be sanctioned by the Government. It is hoped that these advantageous provisions will be availed of by the villagers residing in the interior parts of the State. In the meantime, 56 miles of roads opened by the ryots in Central and North Travancore before the issue of these Rules have been taken over, for departmental maintenance, in addition to 37 miles of such roads already taken over and it has been declared that the policy of the Government is to entrust the maintenance of village roads as far as possible to local inhabitants. In view of the great scope that exists in this country for the rearing of avenue trees and making them an important source of revenue, besides promoting the convenience of travellers, the Chief Engineer has been requested to draw up a scheme of systematic avenue planting and development, and his scheme is awaited. Satisfactory progress has been made in regard to the important work of the Shertallai Canal and the lands required for the entire length of that canal have been acquired at the comparatively small cost of Rs. 1,14,000. The draft Rules framed under the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation have already been published in the Gazette for public criticism and the Chief Engineer has been requested to submit his final proposals after considering the criticisms received.

36. Railway.—The necessary sanction for the preliminary survey of the extension of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway to Nagercoil having been obtained from the Government of India, Mr. G. Marini, a railway engineer of several years' local experience, has been entrusted with that work, and it is expected that the survey will be completed before the end of the current year. The question of conducting a reconnaissance survey of the proposed Quilon-Ernakulam railway will be taken up after the completion of the survey of the Nagercoil line. The economic survey of the forest wealth of the Neriyamangalam valley on the High Ranges, conducted by the Forest Utilisation Officer, has disclosed the fact that the railway line from the High Ranges to the coast along the course of that valley would not be a paying concern, and the proposal connected with that railway has therefore been dropped for the present.

37. Anchal.—The number of private covers posted in the Anchal offices rose from 112,77,564 in 1096 to 125,70,193 in 1097. A system of "village delivery" has been introduced with effect from the beginning of the current year, under which people living in out-of-the-way localities can enjoy the benefits of Anchal registration, without being obliged to resort to the nearest Anchal offices for the purpose. Insurance of registered parcels has also been introduced in six selected Anchal offices; but this arrangement has not yet become sufficiently popular.

38. Medical Relief and Public Health.—The bacteriological and pathological section of the Medical Department, which started work in 1097, has been proving itself useful, and the help rendered by this section in the shape of the diagnosis of certain diseases and the treatment of some of them by means of vaccines specially prepared is being availed of by both departmental and private medical practitioners. The special investigation officer is pursuing his investigations into malaria and elephantiasis. He also proposes to study the conditions of certain other diseases which are widely prevalent in the country, *e. g.*, anæmia, dysentery and yaws. The first batch of 13 pupil nurses undergoing training in the special class organised for them in 1096 have passed their final examination, and when these are appointed in the important hospitals of the State, a more effective system of sick-nursing can be introduced in those institutions, and some steady work can also be undertaken for the welfare of infants, prospective mothers and lying-in women among the poorer and the less educated

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